



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY TO THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

International Health Activities

THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE is one of the newest standing committees authorized by a Bylaw amendment adopted by the Woman's Auxiliary to the American Medical Association in 1962. The concept of the International Health Activities Committee adds a new dimension to service in the Woman's Auxiliary. The program is of service to a world-wide medical community.

When a county medical auxiliary endorses the IHA program it appoints a chairman who sets up the program of collecting, shipping and preparing usable discards from physicians' offices. There is a continual and urgent need for drug samples (leftovers from the doctor-husbands and of all the medical community), used medical textbooks and magazines (regardless of age), medical supplies and instruments, bandage material, x-ray equipment, office furniture, hospital furniture, etc.

The expense of mailing or shipping of materials must be borne by the Auxiliary. Some Auxiliary units have contacted moving companies, who have shipped the materials gratis.

The materials can be packaged and mailed or shipped to one of the organizations which gets these items to the places in the world where they are most needed. Because of its accessibility to our Auxiliary in California, we are working primarily with Direct Relief Foundation, 27 East Canon Perdido St., Santa Barbara. Or a County Auxiliary may have some other non-profit organization it wishes to work with. One of the pioneer groups in this country is World Medical Relief, Inc., 479 W. Columbus Street., Detroit, Michigan. Another reputable group in Califor-

nia is The Medical Relief of Haiti, Inc., 1348 Market St., Redding, Calif.

The above mentioned groups meet all legal requirements for handling drugs. They are regularly examined by FDA inspectors. Medications are meticulously checked as to dates and all deteriorated and recalled medications are discarded in a carefully prescribed manner.

Storage space is available at each of these foundations, and volunteers headed by pharmacists are ready to process all contributions, which will be shipped overseas or wherever there is a medical need. All requests for aid are thoroughly investigated.

At the International Health Activities fall conference in Chicago (held in connection with the Woman's Auxiliary to AMA) Mr. James Forsyth of Direct Relief Foundation spoke of "discharging our moral obligations before God" by helping others. He said requests for medicines arrive daily from hospitals and clinics in remote areas of the free world. In mission hospitals of all faiths physicians work under primitive conditions. "No government agency here or abroad," he said, is ever involved in this principle of "Direct Relief." Relief is direct to the one in need, wherever he is, whatever his color or his creed. No government intervenes, it all goes free of any charge."

All drug contributions must be left in their original bottles or little containers. Then they must be placed in boxes that will be sealed and marked with the name of the Auxiliary doing the collecting.

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